



City Administrator's Report

November 2003

Dear Reader,

This monthly report summarizes and provides updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings:

November 4, 11, 18, 25 Council Meetings

Flags on State Street:

November 4-21 American Flags
November 21- Dec. 9 Unity Shoppe and Downtown Organization Holiday Flags
and Décor

Community Events:

November 21 19th Annual Celebration of Life, 90-plus birthday luncheon,
Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort – (805) 897-2519
November 22 Garden Shop Holiday Preview, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden,
10 a.m. – 3 p.m., (805) 682-4726, ext. 112
November 29 Holiday Arts and Crafts Show, Cabrillo Blvd.
10 a.m. – dusk
December 5 51st Annual Downtown Holiday Parade, 6:30 p.m., Sola and State
Streets – (805) 962-2098, ext. 23
December 14 Parade of Lights, Santa Barbara Harbor – (805) 897-1962

City Administrator

New council members elected

Council members-elect Brian Barnwell, Helene Schneider, and Das Williams will take their seats on the Santa Barbara City Council starting January 6, 2004. Citywide orientations are underway and will continue through December, as new Council Members prepare to begin their official duties.

New city attorney selected

Santa Barbara Assistant City Attorney Steve Wiley has been selected to replace City Attorney Dan Wallace, who announced his retirement earlier this year after nearly 14 years with the City of Santa Barbara. City Council is expected to formally approve Mr. Wiley's selection at their November 11 meeting, with Mr. Wiley assuming his new role in January 2004 when Mr. Wallace retires.

Neighborhood trash bash

A group of 100 volunteers from Calvary Chapel spent a Saturday last month painting the Anapamu pedestrian bridge and picking up two truckloads of trash, litter, and old tires. The clean-up was a community partnership effort that also included *Looking Good Santa Barbara*, employees from the city's Streets Division, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Police departments.

Downtown Holiday Parade

State Street will be set aglow on December 5 for Santa Barbara's 51st Annual Downtown Holiday Parade. This year's 'Holiday Magic' celebration will feature more than 2,500 participants including the Holiday Prince & Fairy, community performance groups, marching bands, local celebrities, holiday floats, a celebrity Grand Marshal...and, of course, jolly ole Santa Claus himself. The parade starts at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Sola and State Streets, ending at De la Guerra Plaza. For more information, call the Downtown Organization at (805) 962-2098, ext. 23. In the event of rain, the parade will be rescheduled for December 12.

"Inside Santa Barbara" on City-TV, Channel 18

November's edition features: MTD Service Changes; Life Chronicles; Parks and Recreation's Resident Discount Card; Granada Theater Restoration; and The Arts Fund's Teen Arts Mentor Program. Weekly airtimes: Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

"Nuestra Ciudad" on City-TV, Channel 18

November's edition features host Gerardo Lorenz and guest Jose Gomez from Santa Barbara MTD, discussing MTD's recent service enhancements. "Nuestra Ciudad" is a monthly, Spanish language show that promotes city government services to Santa Barbara's Spanish speaking residents, airing Saturdays and Sundays at 8 p.m., Mondays at 9 p.m.

Airport Department

Tighter security

City Council last month approved the design phase contract to upgrade the Airline Terminal's computerized security access control system for improved efficiency at the Security Operations Center. Expected completion date is Spring 2004. The entire project cost of \$1.4 million will be 90% funded by a Federal Aviation Administration grant.

New lease for Mercury Air Center

Mercury Air Center provides commercial and general aviation support services including aircraft fueling, storage, maintenance, and training. Their newly negotiated, five-year lease provides a 32% increase in monthly rent for the Airport in addition to the leasehold improvements, and goes before City Council for approval by December 2003.

Taking flight

In September, 61,758 passengers flew in and out of SBA – an 8.1% increase over the same month last year. This year's addition of Horizon Air service moved the number upwards. The United Express Denver route had the highest passenger capacity with an 85.6% average load factor. Other high loads were United's San Francisco flights at 66.9%, and Horizon's Portland flights at 65.9%. The year-to-date passenger count is up 2.1% over the same nine-month period in 2002.

Turkey day travel tips

Thanksgiving is the busiest air travel time of the year. Airport security measures, passenger items prohibited and permitted onboard, and timesaving tips are available from TSA at www.tsa.dot.gov/public/theme_home1.jsp.

Community Development Department

Mental Health Association (MHA) mixed-use project

City Council and the Redevelopment Agency Board took two significant actions in October to move forward the review of a proposed project at 617 Garden Street, for an MHA administrative and program center with 50 units of affordable housing. Twenty-five of the units would be for very-low-income MHA clients, and 25 for low-income, downtown workers. A Memorandum of Understanding was approved, and a Predevelopment Loan Agreement was approved for \$385,000 of agency housing subsidy funds to complete the project review process.

Cottage Hospital update

The City of Santa Barbara will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Seismic Compliance and Modernization Plan. Copies of the *Initial Study-Environmental Checklist* are available at the City Planning Division, 630 Garden Street, or online at www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us, under Web Features. The Planning Commission held an environmental scoping hearing on October 30 to receive Commission and public comments on the scope of analysis for the EIR. Written comments on the EIR scope are invited from the public, and should be sent to Irma Unzueta, Project Planner, City Planning Division, P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990 by 4:30 p.m. on November 11, 2003.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

The table shows September TOT is up approximately 3.1% from the prior fiscal year, marking three consecutive months of growth. Fiscal year-to-date TOT is up 1.9%. September recovered from the major decline experienced in FY 2002, but we are not yet back to the FY 2001 level in which September TOT was \$952,314.

	FY 2001	Change from Prior Year	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year
July	\$1,204,593	11.3%	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%	\$1,198,952	1.3%
Aug	\$1,246,973	7.9%	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%	\$1,349,990	1.6%
Sept	\$952,314	14.1%	\$808,657	-15.1%	\$849,174	5.0%	\$875,700	3.1%
Yr Total	\$3,403,880	10.8%	\$3,255,911	-4.3%	\$3,361,403	3.2%	\$3,424,642	1.9%

Fire Department

Southland fire-fighting support

The Santa Barbara Fire Department committed 20 staff and four engines to assist outside agencies at the Old, Grand Prix, Piru, and Roblar fires. As of this writing, five staff remain on assignments. Full reimbursement is anticipated for our efforts during this extreme emergency.

Safety Fair

Hundreds of residents received safety information and watched demonstrations of rappelling, car rollovers, and K-9 dog units at last month's Safety Fair at La Cumbre Plaza. Fire, Police, plus many other city agencies and organizations participated.

Library Department

Healthy reading

After two years of working with local pediatricians at Franklin Center's well-child clinics, "Reach Out and Read" will soon expand to the new Carpinteria Community Clinic. The program promotes literacy by giving a book to each child during medical check-ups, while doctors also give the child's caregiver a "prescription" to read to the child for at least 20 minutes daily. Local Spanish-speaking volunteers, trained in storytelling by Library staff, read to children in clinic waiting rooms and encourage library visits. A Children and Families Commission grant will help fund the program at the Carpinteria clinic. "Reach Out and Read" is a partnership with the American Association of University Women, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, and the Santa Barbara Public Library System.

Multicultural showcase

Friends of the Eastside Library received \$4,000 from the County Cultural Arts program to continue a series of monthly, multi-cultural programs at the Eastside Branch Library. The free programs showcase cultures and traditions from around the world using music, drama, crafts, dance, and storytelling.

Parks and Recreation Department**Annual 90- plus birthday celebration**

All members of the community age 90 years or better will be honored at the 19th Annual "Celebration of Life" birthday luncheon on November 21, noon to 1:30 p.m. at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort. Attendees will enjoy a gourmet lunch, live music, a birthday gift, and more. Funding provided by Carl Lindros of Santa Barbara Securities, Hutton Foundation, Santa Barbara Foundation, and the DoubleTree Resort. Parks and Recreation Department staff founded the Ninety Plus Club at the Carrillo Recreation Center in 1985. For more information, or to add someone who is 90-plus to the invitation list, contact Senior Recreation Services Supervisor Jason Bryan at (805) 897-2519.

Franceschi Park workday

The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a workday at Franceschi Park on November 8, from 9 a.m. to noon, co-hosted by the Pearl Chase Society, Horticultural Society, and Riviera Homeowners Association. Open to all interested adults, teens, and children. Participants are asked to bring small tools such as rakes, hedge trimmers/clippers, and gloves to help trim plants, clear paths, and perform general park cleanup. Free shuttle vans and parking are provided for volunteers. For more information, call Terri Yamada at (805) 564-5484.

Next generation queried council hopefuls

Prior to the City Council election, all candidates addressed an audience of 100 teens and adults at a Candidates Forum hosted by the Santa Barbara Youth Council and the Santa Barbara High School Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) Club. This was the only council forum that focused strictly on youth issues. Youth Council and JSA members presented questions to the candidates submitted from local high school teens and various youth agencies. Questions ranged from how the candidates might provide for teen activities, to how they will address the budget crisis.

Police Department**Teamwork nabs burglary suspects**

Cooperation between Santa Barbara and Ventura police departments led to the arrest in October of two burglary suspects. In the past several months, numerous commercial burglaries have occurred in the Santa Barbara area. Suspects cut the business phone lines to disable the alarm system, then attacked the safe. A Ventura resident was arrested on probable cause, an outstanding warrant, and booked at Ventura County jail. A second burglary suspect was arrested, booked, and transported to Santa Barbara County jail after a police detective interview with the first suspect's girlfriend.

Bohnett Park shooting arrests

Two 18-year old suspects were arrested on October 28 for their involvement in a shooting that occurred October 22 at Bohnett Park, in the 1200 block of San Pasqual Street. Parents of one suspect were also arrested as accessories to the crime. The teens entered the park, fired a gun at park occupants, and then left the scene in a black pick-up truck. Just prior to the shooting, the Santa Barbara Police Department Communications Center received a call about a fight in the 300 block of E. Anapamu Street, where the suspects were driving a black pick-up truck. The reporting person in that incident provided the vehicle's license plate number. Police investigation revealed that this vehicle and its occupants were involved in both the reported fight and the park shooting.

Public Works Department**Recyclers line up for "ABOP" grand opening**

A new drop-off facility opened November 1 to recycle Antifreeze, Batteries, Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters, and Latex Paint (ABOP). Staffed by city employees trained in handling these materials, ABOP is located at the city's Annex Yard on Yanonali Street, across from the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. ABOP is open to county residents, and was funded by a \$281,000 California Integrated Waste Management Board grant. Hours are Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call (805) 560-7505 for additional details. Household hazardous wastes such as lawn chemicals, pesticides, oil base paints and thinners, and other hazardous items cannot be accepted at the ABOP facility, and must be taken to the UCSB's Household Hazardous Waste facility; call UCSB at (805) 963-0583, ext. 104 for their hours and location.

Attacking graffiti

Looking Good Santa Barbara (LGSB) has initiated a joint, anti-graffiti task force involving various local police and sheriff agencies, the Downtown and Old Town Merchants Organizations, County Probation, and several churches. LGSB is one of the City Council's designated committees, and is affiliated with the national, Keep America Beautiful organization. An LGSB paint-out and clean-up day in October on the Anapamu Street footbridge over Highway 101 attracted more than 250 volunteers, with collection and materials provided by the Streets Division and MarBorg Industries. The LGSB Youth Neighborhood Clean-up program is focusing more intently on graffiti paint-outs, and recently eliminated graffiti painted at the train station and surrounding walls. Also, LGSB is developing an ordinance that will provide rapid access to private property to paint-out graffiti.

Sheffield Reservoir breaks ground

Construction began this month on the final phase of this \$22 million water quality project, which includes two, 6.5 million gallon, below-ground reservoirs to replace the existing, open-water storage reservoir. SSC Construction from Corona is the contractor. Construction will continue for two years, resulting in a landscaped, 23-acre open space above the buried reservoirs. Once vegetation is established, this passive open space will be open to the public during daylight hours, featuring over one mile of hiking/walking trails and more than 500 native trees. The existing Firescape Garden and Filtration Building will be retained, and the Police Department's Canine Training Area will be replaced on site.

Waterfront Department

Parking permits

Annual, waterfront parking permits, valid to December 31, 2004 can be purchased starting December 1. General Annual Waterfront Parking Permits – designated by a red border – are \$65 each at any Waterfront Parking Kiosk, the Waterfront Business Office, or the Harbor Patrol Office. Slip-holder Annual Waterfront Parking Permits – designated by a blue border – are \$50 each, and can be purchased only through the Harbor Patrol Office. Slip-holder Permits are available to harbor tenants and current slip-holders. The Waterfront Parking Services brochure is available at Waterfront Parking Kiosks, Santa Barbara Visitors Bureau, Waterfront Business Office, and City Hall. For more waterfront parking information, call (805) 564-5523 or (805) 897-1965.

Sea Center renovation

The Sea Center and Nature Conservancy buildings bit the dust last month as part of the Sea Center Renovation Project on Stearns Wharf. Slated for completion by the December 2004 holiday season, the renovation will nearly double the Sea Center's floor space to 7,000 square feet. The new facility will include a tide pool, oceanography exhibit, abalone spawning observation area, and more, at a cost of approximately \$8 million.

Parade of Lights

Santa Barbara celebrates this year's 18th Annual Parade of Lights on December 14 at the Santa Barbara Harbor with the theme, "Holidays in Paradise!" The parade route takes participating boats westward from the Harbor, past the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Each boat entry competes for a grand, mystery prize, and there is no entry fee. Boat applications are available at the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol Office, 132 Harbor Way. For more information on this family-friendly event that includes fireworks, Santa's Village, 12 tons of snow, Santa, and more, call (805) 564-5532.